

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE SAUDI AIRPORTS

Just prior to landing in the Saudi Airports you will see other women on the plane putting on their black, long-sleeved, floor length abayas and head scarves; some of them may also veil their faces. If you have an abaya you should put it on and put your scarf on or around your neck if you choose not to cover your hair with it. If you do not have an abaya wear something conservative with long sleeves and a long skirt or pants. In all cases, be sure to bring a scarf with you.

Everyone will disembark and head through the terminal to several processing lines that are marked in English. Just select the proper line and wait your turn (if you have a diplomatic passport, use the diplomatic line). Prior to going through the gate you will need to fill out an entry card (an examples of the entry card and the exit card follow these directions) that is written in Arabic and English. All the questions on the front of the form are self-explanatory. The questions on the reverse need clarification:

SPONSOR NAME: In this case, your sponsor is the agency you or your spouse works for which should be "USMTM"

SPONSOR ADDRESS: Village Eskan, Al-Kharj Road, Riyadh, KSA

The next question asks for dependents. This question refers to the dependents listed in your passport; only list dependents on this form if they are actually included in your passport and travelling with you.

When you process through the line the agent will look at you, your passport and the form before he stamps your passport and you are free to continue to the X-ray machines to have your baggage cleared.

After exiting the baggage claim area, your spouse or sponsor should be waiting for you. If you are a woman and you have arrived early please, for your safety, look for other women to sit by; it is not customary for women to wait where the men sit. If your flights were changed and your sponsor does not know to pick you up ask any of the airport workers for help. They will get you to someone who speaks English. You should then ask to use a phone and call the USMTM Transportation NCOIC at 050-482-0457 and he will arrange transportation and/or contact someone to help you.

When you arrive on Eskan you will use your military/DOD identification card to gain access. If you don't have those credentials, your sponsor will have to sign you in at the MODA gate. The following business day your sponsor will help you get the appropriate identification credentials.

Women should wear their abayas until they are inside the American gates on Eskan.

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